

LESSON 8

JOINT TASK FORCE ORGANIZATION

Introduction

Establishing a Joint Task Force (JTF)

The UNAAF states:

A JTF may be established on a geographical area or functional basis when the mission has a specific limited objective and does not require overall centralized control of logistics.

A joint task force (JTF) is normally formed to accomplish a specific mission with a limited objective. The ability to establish a JTF does two things:

- Provides the National Command Authority (NCA) or a commander in chief (CINC) with a force that can be organized and tasked to deal with specific situations within the CINC's area of responsibility (AOR)
 - Enables a CINC to maintain his focus on the entire AOR, while the commander, joint task force (CJTF), focuses on the specific assigned mission
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Relationship To Other Instruction

This lesson covers the following:

- Basic authorization, organization, and function of the JTF
- Types of subordinate commands within the JTF
- Intelligence support for the JTF

Lessons 8 and 9 focus on the organization and function of the joint task force, serving as the "linchpin" of this course. You, as a potential member of a joint task force, must consider many factors in your operational planning to select the best means of performing a military mission.

Study Time

This lesson, including the issues for consideration, will require about 2.5 hours of study.

Educational Objectives

Multinational Operations	Comprehend how the U.S. military is organized to plan, execute, sustain, and train for joint and multinational operations. [JPME Area 1e]
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Current Joint Doctrine	Comprehend current joint doctrine regarding the basic authorization, organization, and function of the JTF. [JPME Area 2a]
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JPME Areas/ Objectives/Hours (accounting data)	1/e/.5 2/a/.5
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Basic Authorization, Organization, and Function of the JTF

Identifying the JTF Requirement

Creating a JTF is only one subordinate command option available to a command authority. While one commander may decide to use a JTF to accomplish a given mission, another may decide to use a different subordinate command option to satisfy similar mission requirements.

The requirement for a JTF may be identified in either the deliberate or crisis action planning (CAP) process. CAP begins when a significant incident or event is reported to an appropriate government agency and ends when the crisis is resolved or forces are withdrawn.

Authority Establishing a JTF

The authority establishing a JTF

- Assigns the mission and forces
- Designates the commander (CJTF)

Note: The CJTF (or JTF) should be established before or during CAP Phase III, COA (course of action) Development, to allow time for proper staff planning.

Principles for Establishing a JTF Mission

A JTF is established when a mission

- Has a specific limited objective
- Does not require overall centralized control of logistics
- Requires execution of responsibilities involving *two or more services* on a significant scale with close integration of effort
- Requires coordination within a subordinate area (including coordination of local defense for a subordinate area)

A JTF is dissolved when the purpose for which it was created has been achieved.

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Basic Authorization, Organization, and Function of the JTF,

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Factors Determining JTF Organizational Structure

The two most fundamental considerations in the establishment of command organizations are the

- Mission to be accomplished
- Objective to be attained through accomplishment of the mission

The factors that determine the organizational structure of a JTF include the

- Responsibilities, missions, and tasks assigned to the commander
 - Nature and scope of the operations
 - Forces available or to be made available
 - Geography
 - Enemy forces
 - Time available
 - Manner in which the commander decides to fulfill the mission
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JTF Billets

The following billets provide structure and accountability to the JTF establishing authority:

- JTF commander (CJTF)
- JTF component commanders
- Supported commanders
- Supporting commanders

Remember, the combatant commanders (unified CINCs) are the only commanders who exercise COCOM authority.

Responsibilities of the JTF Establishing Authority

The CJTF establishing authority

- Appoints the CJTF
- Exercises operational control (OPCON)
- Ensures the development and approval of rules of engagement (ROE)

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Basic Authorization, Organization, and Function of the JTF,

Continued

Basic Responsibilities of the JTF Commander

The commander of a JTF

- Exercises OPCON over assigned and attached forces
- Recommends the proper employment of assigned forces to the superior command
- Accomplishes operational missions as assigned by the establishing commander
- Conducts joint training of assigned forces for the CINC

Note: A JTF commander who is also a service component commander performs duties associated with the service component command for the forces belonging to the parent service.

Need for Effective Interaction

Once CAP is activated, *effective interaction* is essential to optimize information flow and coordinate planning activities among the NCA, the Joint Staff, the services, defense agencies, combatant commands, the CJTF, designated forces, and other members of the joint planning and execution community.

The CJTF (or JTF) staff must maintain a close relationship with the supported commander's staff during CAP Phases III-VI to coordinate these planning activities.

Types of Subordinate Commands Within the JTF

Organizational Principles for a Sound Command Structure

To effectively carry out a mission, command organizations must provide the following:

- Unity of effort
- Centralized direction
- Decentralized execution
- Common doctrine
- Interoperability

The CJTF exercises OPCON of assigned and attached forces through designated component commanders.

Types of Functions of Other Forces

If required, authority for coordinating with external forces and/or foreign governments will be specified. As directed by the common superior commander, such external forces may operate in any of the following ways:

- In support of the CJTF
 - Under the OPCON of the CJTF
 - Under tactical control (TACON) of the CJTF
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Characteristics of a Coordinating Authority

A coordinating authority is

- More applicable to planning and similar activities than to operations
 - More useful when coordination with two or more agencies is desired for a special common task without disturbing normal organizational relationships (in other matters)
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Types of Subordinate Commands Within the JTF, Continued

Responsibilities of the Common Superior Commander

The common superior commander is responsible for

- Determining the basis on which subordinate commanders will exercise command or control
- Assigning clearly the responsibilities, authorities, and command relationships in directives issued to establish subordinate commands.

Particularly important for commanders assigned missions that bring their forces into common or contiguous areas are the

- Assignment of command relationships
 - Establishment of coordinating instructions
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Required Reading

Joint Pub Readings

Joint Pub 5-00.2, *Joint Task Force (JTF) Planning Guidance and Procedures* (1991). Read chapters II and IV. Find this reading in the *Joint Pub Readings* Vol. III (8800), pp. 1039 to 1063. Chapter II discusses the organization and functions of the JTF staff. Chapter IV discusses joint force operations as well as the organization and functions of the JTF headquarters.

Issues for Consideration

Organizational Principles

What organizational principles does the CJTF use to develop a sound command structure?

Functions and Responsibilities

What are the major functions and responsibilities of the CJTF and the JTF staff?

Compare and Contrast the Organization of the JTF

What are the differences when comparing and contrasting the organization of the JTF by service and component commands, including the differences in responsibilities?

Command and Control

What are the command and control considerations for executing JTF operations?

Purpose and Function of the JISE

What are the purpose and function of the Joint Intelligence Support Element?
